

How we finished a project: *The Robert Graves Diary*

Janelle Jenstad
Martin Holmes
</endings>

JJ </e> MH



March 7th Thursday

Lama has influenza. Betty went back.

A very cold wind blowing. \pm down to 34-45 peaks
Went down to sea. Aphodels out.

The Focus January number isn't here yet: it
was promised for Sat. 24th.

Made out a scheme for the course of
Antigua, but got the order of procedure wrong.
No matter. Sebastian grafted 2 peaches, 12 almonds
Lama told me a dream. A hall of people being
asked questions by a professor of psychology to show
his ^{deductive} skill. He picked on Lama for the question, "What
is the function of a bird?" ^(assumably) She replied, "I do not consider
that a proper question. For it should be addressed ^{fatally} to the
bird itself. ^{And that} ~~but~~ no answer ^{can} be expected
from the bird does not justify your shifting the
responsibility for answering from a being without
consciousness, to a conscious being who has altogether
different functions. Your question to such a being
can only ^{properly} refer to observed action. ^{in the other} If you ask
me, 'what does a bird do?' my answer would
be 'fly!'

The jurist letter and poem sent me by one
Sidney Wilson of Ashley, Penn. Filed it in Dictionary of
Christian Biography under Lazarus - Leander.

Graves's Diary (1935- 1939)



A brief history

- Started 2003
- First serious digital edition project for HCMC
- Made every mistake imaginable



Stupid mistakes we made

- Misunderstood TEI. Every diary month was a `teiCorpus` element.

JJ `</e>` MH



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- Added a MySQL database to make things yet more complicated.



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- Misunderstood TEI. Every diary month was a `teiCorpus` element.
- Made up our own XML when we couldn't easily make TEI work.
- Failed to analyse the data before starting, so had to scramble to handle e.g. enclosures/attachments.
- Added a MySQL database to make things yet more complicated.
- Based the web application on version 0.9 of a new piece of software (eXist), running inside Cocoon.



But it worked!

Diary of Robert Graves 1935-39 and ancillary material

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[New Search](#) [Diary Scans](#)

March 1935

[« February](#) [« Abstract »](#) [April »](#)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

DISPLAYED DIARY SCAN(S)



March 7th Thursday

[» Annotated markup](#)

[» Full-sized Image](#)

[» Gallery Scan](#)

March 7th Thursday

Laura has influenza. **Betty** went back. A very cold wind blowing. £ down to 34.45 pesetas. Went down to sea. Asphodels out. The **Focus** January number isn't here yet: it was promised for Sat. 24th.

Made out a scheme for the court case of **Antigua**, but got the order of procedure wrong. No matter. **Sebastian** grafted 2 peaches on 2 almonds.

Laura told me a dream. A hall of people being asked questions by a professor of psychology to show his **deductive[RG]** skill. He picked on **Laura** for the question, "What is the function of a bird?" She replied **aggressively[RG]**, "I do not consider that a proper question; it should be addressed, **if at all[RG]** to the bird itself, ~~but since~~ **And that[RG]** no answer ~~could~~ **can[RG]** be expected from the bird does not justify your shifting the responsibility for answering from a being without consciousness, to a conscious being who has altogether different functions. Your question to such a being can only **properly[RG]** refer to observed action **in the other[RG]**. **If therefore[RG]** you ask me 'what does a bird do?' my answer would be 'fly!'"

The funniest letter and poem sent me by one Sidney Wilson ¹ of Ashley, Penn. Filed it in Dictionary of Christian Biography ² under Lazarus-Leander ³.

EDITORIAL NOTES

¹Can find no references to this person??? eds.

²Dictionary of Christian Biography by Sir William Smith and Henry Wace. London: J. Murray, 1877. 4 vols. eds.

³in Volume 3—but has since disappeared. WG/eds.



But then...

What about
enclosures and
attachments?

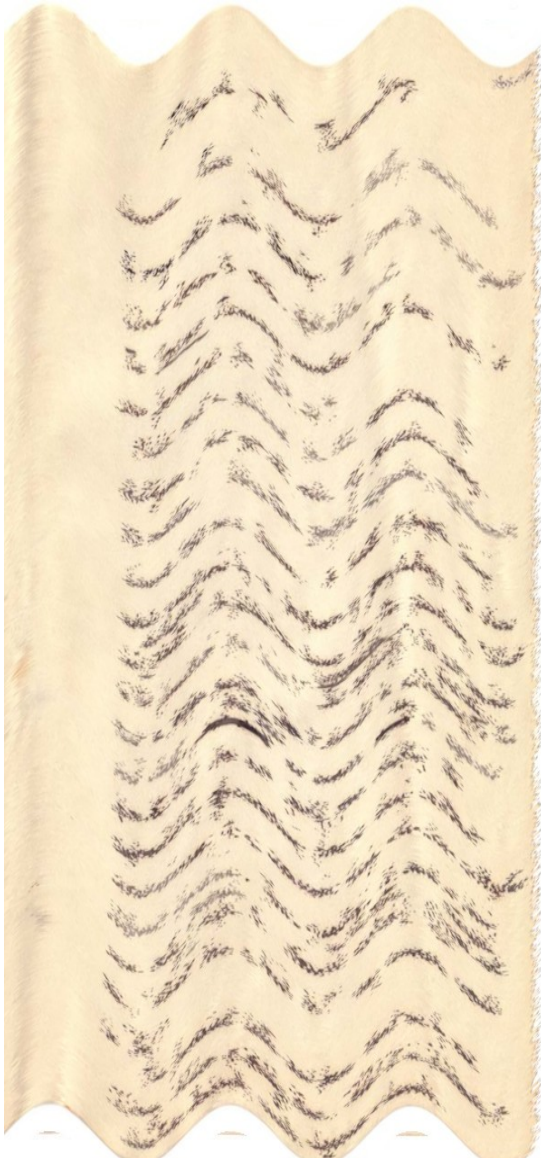
Grr. Nobody
mentioned...



JJ </e> MH



And then...



- Cocoon is out of date.
- eXist is out of date.
- Things get flaky.

JJ </e> MH



So we rewrite...

- Cocoon 2.1.
- eXist 1.4.



So we rewrite...

- Cocoon 2.1.
- eXist 1.4.
- Spot the error.



And then...



JJ </e> MH



Query string nightmare!

```
http://graves.uvic.ca/  
xbrowse.xq;jsessionid=926A43  
8A2B364B4B92488B9AC00AB013?  
query_stored=true&collection  
=/db/graves/  
entries&type=diaryentry&n=19  
35-02-22&start=1
```



Sigh.

JJ </e> MH



Sigh.

- Start again.

JJ </e> MH



Sigh.

- Start again.
- *Learn from mistakes.*

JJ </e> MH



Sigh.

- Start again.
- *Learn from mistakes.*
- *Do it properly.*



Doing it properly

- Data: all TEI P5, version-controlled.
- Site: all HTML5 + JavaScript + CSS.
- URLs: all simple, no query strings.
-



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